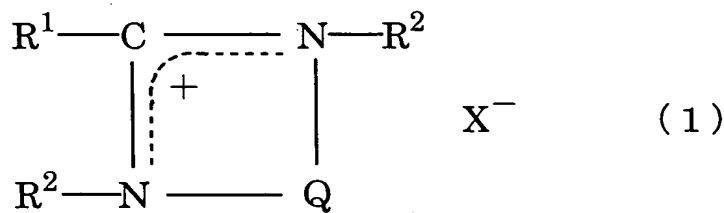


## CLAIMS

1. An electrolyte for an electrochemical capacitor comprising a cyclic amidinium salt (B) represented by the 5 general formula (1),

wherein the total amount of a cyclic amidinium salt derivative (A) represented by the general formula (2) is not larger than 10 mole% relative to the sum of (A) and (B):

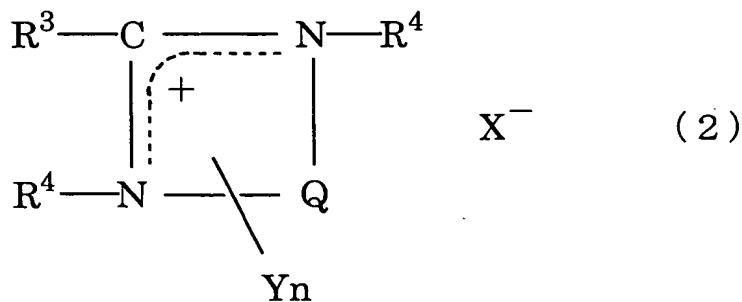
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[In the formula,  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which may optionally have a hydroxyl group(s),  $R^2$  represents a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which 20 may optionally have a hydroxyl group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, formyl group and/or ether bond-containing group(s), and the two  $R^2$  groups may be the same or different,  $Q$  represents an alkylene, arylene or alkenylene group containing 2 to 10 carbon atoms, which may 25 optionally have a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an amino, nitro, cyano or formyl group(s), and  $X^-$  represents a counter anion; the part or whole of the  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  moieties may be bound together to form a ring.];

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[In the formula, R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which may be substituted with a hydroxyl group(s), R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which

- 5 may have a hydroxyl, amino, nitro, cyano, formyl and/or ether bond-containing group(s), and the two R<sup>4</sup> groups may be the same or different; Q represents an alkylene, arylene or alkenylene group containing 2 to 10 carbon atoms, which may optionally have a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 5
- 10 carbon atoms, an amino, nitro, cyano or formyl group(s), and there are cases where there is X<sup>-</sup> or there is no X<sup>-</sup> and, when there is X<sup>-</sup>, it represents a counter anion, and each Y represents a carboxyl group or an -OCO<sub>2</sub>H and, when there is no X<sup>-</sup>, each Y represents a carboxyl group, a carboxyl anion group, an -OCO<sub>2</sub>H or -OCO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> group and one Y represents a carboxyl anion or an -OCO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> group; n represents an integer of 1 to 20; the part or whole of the R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> moieties may be bound together to form a ring].
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- 20 2. The electrolyte for an electrochemical capacitor according to Claim 1,

which is producible by dissolving said cyclic amidinium salt (B) in a solvent.

- 25 3. The electrolyte for an electrochemical capacitor according to Claim 1 or 2,

wherein Q is a -CH=CH- group.

- 30 4. The electrolyte for an electrochemical capacitor according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the anion X<sup>-</sup> in (A) or (B) is an ion selected from the group consisting of PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>, BF<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, AsF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>, SbF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>, N(RfSO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, C(RfSO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and RfSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (Rf representing a fluoroalkyl group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms).

5. The electrolyte for an electrochemical capacitor according to any one of Claims 1 to 4,

wherein the solvent comprises, as the main component, at least one species selected from the group consisting of

5 propylene carbonate, ethylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, sulfolane, 3-methylsulfolane, acetonitrile, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate and diethyl carbonate.

6. An electrochemical capacitor having a polarizable 10 electrode impregnated with an electrolyte

which contains the electrolyte for an electrochemical capacitor according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 as the electrolyte, and

15 in which at least one of the positive and negative electrodes is a polarizable electrode comprising a carbonaceous material as the main component.

7. The electrochemical capacitor according to Claim 6, wherein the carbonaceous material is activated carbon.

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8. An electric double layer capacitor having a polarizable electrode impregnated with an electrolyte

which is producible by using the electrolyte for an electrochemical capacitor according to any one of Claims 1 25 to 5 as the electrolyte.

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